

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing a communication,
comprising:

receiving the communication;

5 directly and sinebusslessly storing the communication
received;

providing the communication stored to at least one of
the plurality of entities;

receiving a response to the communication;

10 storing the response; and

providing the response directly and
sineinterruptlessly.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the communication is stored in a first storage
15 accessible to a plurality of entities;

the response is stored in a second storage not
accessible by at least one of the entities in the plurality
of entities; and

the response is provided from the second storage.

20 3. The method of claim 2:

additionally comprising assigning the communication received to at least one of a plurality of queues in the first storage, the plurality of queues each corresponding to a different one of the plurality of entities; and

5 and wherein the providing the communication step comprises providing the communication to at least one of the plurality of entities corresponding to the at least one queue to which the communication was assigned.

10 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the assigning step is responsive to a prior communication.

15 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the assigning step is responsive to information contained in the communication.

20 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the response is additionally provided sinebusly.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication comprises a packet.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication comprises an Ethernet frame.

25 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication comprises a storage device communication.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of entities comprise a plurality of processors.

11. A system for processing a communication, comprising:

5 an incoming communication interface having an input for receiving the communication, the incoming communication interface for providing at least a portion of the communication received at the incoming communication interface input;

10 an incoming interface manager having an input coupled to the incoming communication interface output, the incoming interface manager for directly and sinebusslessly storing the communication received at the incoming interface manager input into a first storage coupled to an
15 output;

a first interface having an input/output coupled to the first storage and an output, the first interface for retrieving from the first storage via the first storage input/output and for providing via an output the
20 communication to at least one of the plurality of entities coupled to the first storage output;

a second interface having an input for receiving a response to the communication and for providing the response to a second storage coupled to an output; and

an outgoing interface manager having an input/output
5 coupled to the second storage, the outgoing interface manager for retrieving the response directly and sineinterruptlessly from the second storage and providing the response at an output.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein:

10 the first storage output is coupled to a plurality of entities; and

the second interface input coupled to at least one of the plurality of entities but coupled to fewer than all of the plurality of entities

15 13. The system of claim 12, wherein:

the incoming interface manager is additionally for assigning the communication received to at least one of a plurality of queues in the first storage, the plurality of queues each corresponding to a different one of the
20 entities; and

and wherein the first interface provides the communication by to at least one of the plurality of

entities corresponding to the at least one queue to which the communication was assigned.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the incoming interface manager assigns the communication responsive to a prior communication.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the incoming interface manager assigns the communication responsive to information contained in the communication.

16. The system of claim 11 wherein the outgoing interface manager additionally retrieves the response from the second storage sinebusly.

17. The system of claim 11 wherein the communication comprises a packet.

18. The system of claim 11 wherein the communication comprises an Ethernet frame.

19. The system of claim 11 wherein the communication comprises a storage device communication.

20. The system of claim 11 wherein the plurality of entities comprise a plurality of processors.

21. A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for processing a communication, the

computer program product comprising computer readable
program code devices configured to cause at least one
computer to:

receive the communication;

5 directly and sinebusslessly store the communication
received;

provide the communication stored to at least one of
the plurality of entities;

receive a response to the communication;

10 store the response; and

provide the response directly and sineinterruptlessly.

22. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein:

the computer readable program code devices configured
to cause at least one computer to store the communication
15 comprise computer readable program code devices configured
to cause at least one computer to store the communication
in a first storage accessible to a plurality of entities;

the computer readable program code devices configured
to cause at least one computer to store the response
20 comprise computer readable program code devices configured
to cause at least one computer to store the response in a

second storage not accessible by at least one of the entities in the plurality of entities; and

the computer readable program code devices configured to cause at least one computer to provide the response
5 comprise computer readable program code devices configured to cause at least one computer to provide the response from the second storage.

23. The computer program product of claim 22:

10 additionally comprising computer readable program code devices configured to cause at least one computer to assign the communication received to at least one of a plurality of queues in the first storage, the plurality of queues each corresponding to a different one of the plurality of entities; and

15 and wherein the computer readable program code devices configured to cause at least one computer to provide the communication comprise computer readable program code devices configured to cause at least one computer to provide the communication to at least one of the plurality
20 of entities corresponding to the at least one queue to which the communication was assigned.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the computer readable program code devices configured to

cause at least one computer to assign are responsive to a prior communication.

25. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the computer readable program code devices configured to
5 cause at least one computer to assign are responsive to information contained in the communication.

26. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the computer readable program code devices configured to cause at least one computer to provide the response
10 comprise computer readable program code devices configured to cause at least one computer to provide the response sinebusly.

27. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the communication comprises a packet.

15 28. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the communication comprises an Ethernet frame.

29. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the communication comprises a storage device communication.

20 30. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the plurality of entities comprise a plurality of processors.

31. A method of processing a communication,
comprising:

receiving the communication;

storing the communication in a first storage

5 accessible to a plurality of entities;

providing the communication from the first storage;

receiving a response to the communication;

storing the response to the communication in a second
storage not accessible to at least one of the plurality of

10 entities; and

providing the response from the second storage.